A 3275 -2

trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 29, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 23 totaled an estimated 18.1 billion ton-miles, 18.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Washington's Birthday holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 8 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 135 billion ton-miles, 12.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 23 totaled 443,213 cars, 10.1 percent above 1979, but 0.1 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 10.1 percent in the East, 11.8 percent in the South, and 9.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 12 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases. Coal loadings increased by 26,649 cars, or 33.2 percent, and grain traffic was up 10,891 cars, or 55.6 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 16 totaled 34,374 cars, down 0.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 62,579 trailers and/or containers, 1.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 7 weeks of the year was 229,144 cars, 3.7 percent higher than last year, and 413,394 trailers and/or containers, up 6.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/23/80.

	Loadings in Week ended February 23, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	30,467	I 10,891	55.6	I 33	0.1
Other farm products	4,257	I 436	11.4	D 489	10.3
Metallic ores	21,578	D 3,240	13.1	D 478	2.2
Coal	106,925	I 26,649	33.2	I 6,392	6.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,098	I 1,295	11.0	I 622	5.0
Nonmetallic minerals	13,344	I 287	2.2	D 730	5.2
Grain mill products	18,258	I 1,094	6.4	D 664	3.5
Food and kindred products	18,139	I 894	5.2	D 1,425	7.3
Primary forest products	21,427	I 3,048	16.6	I 816	4.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,074	D 39	0.4	I 68	0.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,662	I 1,776	8.9	D 118	0.5
Chemicals and allied products	28,419	D 452	1.6	D 999	3.4
Petroleum products	6,446	D 161	2.4	D 513	7.4
Stone, clay and glass products	14,829	D 265	1.8	D 627	4.1
Coke	6,325	D 625	9.0	D 224	3.4
Metals and products	17,393	I 547	3.2	D 491	2.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,248	D 2,589	10.9	I 1,226	6.1
Waste and scrap materials	13,568	I 875	6.9	D 744	5.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,275	D 365	3.1	D 326	2.8
All other carloads	43,174	I 675	1.6	D 1,896	4.2
LCL traffic	307	D 123	28.6	I 51	19.9
Total Cars Loaded	443,213	I 40,608	10.1	D 516	0.1
Corresponding week of 1979	402,605				

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (8 weeks)	3,455,184	3,186,006	I 8.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
7 weeks cumulative	116.4	104.6	I 11.3
Week ended February 23	18.1	15.3	I 18.0
8 weeks cumulative	134.5	119.9	I 12.1

AARt-022980